ANS Correspondence

French, Thomas E., Prof.

[Ohio State University]

1920-1923

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING

W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT SKEELS JOHN
O. E. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. B. FIELD
H. S. PATTENGARGER
H. P. VERGES
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

COLUMBUS November 19, 1920

Mr. Sydney P. Noe

Secretary American Numismatic Society

Broadway at 155th Street

New York

Dear Mr. Noe:-

I happen to be on the committee selected to prepare the "Sullivant Medal" for Ohio State University.

This is to be a portrait medal, to be awarded annually, and will be struck in gold with an intrinsic value of about $250.00.

The donor wishes the work to be done by an artist of known reputation and ability. May I ask if you will give me a list of the names of Medallists whom you would recommend, indicating so far as you may, something of the comparative charges which they might make, and with any other notes which would be of aid to us.

With apologies for this intrusion on your time but assuring you of our sincere appreciation of your assistance, I am,

Very truly,

Thos. E. French

TEF-S

November 23rd, 1920

Professor Thomas E. French
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Professor French:

Your letter of November 19th is at hand, and any advice that I may be able to give you is very gladly offered.

The artists with established reputations ask from $1,200 to $2,000 for making a medal. In some cases, this implies that they will furnish the dies, which is a matter of $250 or more, depending upon the size of the medal to be struck.

Unless the cost is an object to the donor, I cannot recommend too strongly that you have a man of established reputation make the medal for you. Messrs. Weinman, Fraser, Manship, Flanagan or Brenner of New York, would, in my opinion, come within this category. All are members of our Society, and all of them have made very good medals. As you will understand, being a friend of all of them, I am hardly in a position to recommend the work of one as superior to another, and I take it that this is not what you desire. May I say, however, that if you or a representative of your University can come to our Museum, we should be very glad to show you the work of each of them, and to point out the fields in which each of them has made his mark.

If, however, the expense is something of an object to your donor, I would urge you to consider also the work of some of the younger artists whose reputation is not yet made. They would be prepared to do the work for you at a lower cost than the sculptors I have named. The older men are likely to be swamped with commissions; if speed is desirable, the younger men are in a better position to afford that, as a rule. There are a number of these younger men whose work warrants the highest praise as well as sculptors who would gladly undertake something in the medal line if a commission should present itself. Names which occur to me are those of -

Chester Beach
Mrs. Fraser
Robert Aiken
Allen G. Newman
Anthony de Francisci
Mrs. Corbett
Sherry Fry

I feel confident that almost any one of these men would produce a medal which would give you entire

I feel confident that almost any of these men would produce a medal which would give you entire satisfaction.

If this gives you the kind of information you want, I shall be very happy; if I can aid you further, please feel free to call upon me.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

JPM/E

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING
THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT MEIKLEJOHN
O. E. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. B. FIELD
R. S. PAFFENBARGER
H. F. YERGES
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

COLUMBUS November 29, 1920

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secy.
Amer. Numismatic Society
Broadway between 155 and 156th Sts.
New York

My dear Mr. Noe:-

Let me thank you for your letter of the 23rd in reply to my letter regarding sculptors. There is one further question upon which I should be glad to have your opinion. In the last medal which we had made, the commission was given to the Medallic Art Company, who had Francisci do the modelling. Do you consider it better to give the commission to the artist and have him look after the die cutting or to give the commission to the die cutter, specifying the artist whom you wish to do the work?

Since this is to be a portrait medal, I wonder if Flannigan would be the best man for it? I have seen and admired his work in your collection. I appreciate the delicacy of your position in not wishing to recommend one of your friends over another and am sorry that I cannot be in New York to look over the collection again with you and meet some of the men. Possibly this may be done on my return from California after the first of the year.

Again thanking you for your interest, I am,

Sincerely,

Thos E. French

TEF-S

December 2nd, 1920

Professor Thomas E. French
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Professor French:

In response to your letter of November 29th, the question you ask would have the same answer either way because I know that Flanagan has the Medallic Art Company do practically all of his work.

Flanagan's best work has been done in the portrait field, and I doubt that you would find anyone who would prove more satisfactory. I have no hesitancy whatever in speaking of Mr. Flanagan's work in the highest terms. He is one of the best of our medallists. I think, however, that if you have a suggestion for the Reverse, the results are likely to be better than if you give him no indication whatever upon which to work. I do not mean that it is necessary to stipulate absolutely what should be used, so much as to imply that if you have a suggestion or two from which he can select the more desirable figures, that the result is more likely to be a happy one.

With best wishes for a successful outcome for the new medal, I beg to subscribe myself

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

EFH/E

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING
THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT MEIKLEJOHN
O. E. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. B. FIELD
R. S. PAFFENBARGER
H. F. YERGES
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

COLUMBUS March 21, 1921

Mr. Sidney P. Noe
Amer. Numismatic Society
Broadway and 155th Street
New York

My dear Mr. Noe:-

I am taking the liberty of writing you again regarding the proposed Sullivant medal. The donor of this medal, Dr. Mendenhall, set aside what he thought was a sufficient amount to cover the cost for making, for striking in gold, and for the incidental expenses connected with its periodic award.

The Dr. has a number of French medals which have been awarded him and intimated that he would be interested in having a French designer. After receiving your information regarding the American designers I told the Dr. that American medalists were just as good as or better than French medalists but that it would not be possible to have a medal made by an American sculptor of the first rank for the amount ($1000) appropriated.

After this I wrote to France and Henry Nocq was recommended. I then wrote V. Canale, asking for approximate costs. I have just received an answer to thid with some examples in plaster of M. Nocq's portraits and quoting a price of about 10,000 francs.

Now I am coming to you for your advice as to the advisability of recommending to the Committee that the commission be given M. Canale to have Henry Nocq make the design. I can forsee the probability of some delay in the necessary correspondence but Dr. Mendenhall does not seem to be in any hurry about the completion of this. But I also dislike to send work abroad that might be dome at home - although the question of price enters largely into this as the present rate of exchange is much in our favor.

I do not wish to burden you with my problems but am much in need of your expert advice.

Thanking you and with kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Thos E. French

TEF-S

March 23rd, 1921

Professor Thomas E. French
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Professor French:

I have your letter of March 21st and can readily understand that the proposition of having Monsieur Nocq design the medal for you at a cost of approximately $700 has its attrations.

I wonder, however, if you have taken into consideration the Customs charges either in importing the die or medal struck abroad. Also, may I suggest that you make sure that M. Nocq understands that the medal is not to be uniface - possibly, that is your intention; but if so, the comparison with American prices is not fair because the thousand dollars quoted is under the supposition that there should be two dies.

I should hardly want to discourage your having such an excellent artist as M. Nocq design this medal for you; and if there is no urgency about the matter, the delay of getting anything through the Customs will hardly apply as an argument against ordering abroad. We have just received two packages sent us last November - I cite this as an illustration of some of the difficulties one has to face with foreign shipments in these days. Furthermore, European artists are sometimes accustomed to move more deliberately than seems necessary to our more rapid way of getting things done.

The only alternative to the two propositions which you have before you, is the possibility of having the work done by a French sculptress who is at present in this country. I refer to Mme. Anie Mouroux who has designed a medal of General Pershing, and who comes highly recommended. She won the Prix de Rome; and Messrs. Cass Gilbert and Warren Whitney have interested themselves on her behalf. I believe she would be very glad to design a medal; and although I have no definite statement of her prices, I believe that she would do it for less than what has been quoted you. In the event that you are to consider this proposition, I could have photographs of some of her work sent to you.

I am sorry to add so many complications to what must have seemed to you a fairly simple proposition. Please feel that I shall be only too happy if you will write me further regarding your reaction to this information.

Very sincerely yours,

EWH E

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING
THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT MEIKLEJOHN
O. E. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. B. FIELD
R. S. PAFFENBARGER
H. F. YERGES
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

COLUMBUS April 12, 1921

Mr. Sidney P. Noe
Amer. Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York

Dear Mr. Noe:-

Just at the time of the receipt of your letter of March 23 I was taken rather seriously ill with an attack of coleo cystitis and have only returned to the office today.

On the same day a letter was received from the Medallic Art Company saying that Mr. Flanagan was willing to do the Sullivant medal for $1000 providing the reverse would be simple. My own hope was that the reverse would be as interesting as the obverse and I do not wish to make any agreement that would involve limiting the deisgn.

I expect to take the whole matter up with the Committee within a week or so and hope that something may be started soon.

I appreciate very much your points about the complications on a foreign medal. M. Nocq understood I believe that there were to be two dies. I am not sure about the Customs charges - other importations for University use, such as scientific apparatus and books are admitted duty free.

Regarding Mme. Anie Mouroux, I am sure that the two women members of the Committee, Miss Sullivant and Mrs. Siebert, would be much

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING

W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT MEIKLEJOHN
C. E. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. B. FIELD
E. S. PAFFENBARGER
H. F. VIEGEN
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

COLUMBUS May 12, 1921

Mr. Sydney P. Noe
Amer. Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York

My dear Mr. Noe:-

I am expecting to be in New York next week and shall be very glad to have the privilege and pleasure of calling upon you.

Sincerely,

Thos E French

TEF-S

May 14th, 1921

Professor Thomas E. French
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Your favour of May 12th addressed to Mr. Noe is at hand.

Mr. Noe is now in Europe and expects to be away until September, nevertheless it will give us pleasure to have you visit this Society when you are in New York next week; and If I can be of any service to you, please feel free to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING DRAWING

THOS. E. FRENCH
ROBERT MEHLENBACHER
C. R. WILLIAMS
W. D. TURNBULL
C. L. SVENSEN
W. R. FIELD
R. S. PAFFENBARGER
H. F. TERGES
F. M. MARTIN
T. F. HALDY

W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

COLUMBUS

October 11, 1921

Mr. Sydney P. Noe
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York

Dear Mr. Noe:-

I am writing again regarding the proposed Sullivant medal, this time on a question of correctness and precedent.

Mr. Flanagan who is doing the medal has submitted a sketch which has no cartouche nor space for the name of the recipient on either face. He says that the name and reason for the award is to be engraved on the cylindrical edge of the medal which gives a developed length of over eight inches. I should be glad to know whether there is good precedent for this and how you would regard such a proposition.

With apologies for troubling you again and assuring you of my appreciation of your assistance, I am,

Sincerely,

Thos E French

TEF-S

October 13th, 1921

Professor Thomas E. French
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Professor French:

Your letter of October 11th raises an interesting question. Procedure, I think, is almost equally divided in this matter. Our Saltus Award Medal has the name of the recipient engraved on the edge, and I think the practice is not uncommon although I do not at the moment recall other instances.

You mention that the name of the recipient and reason for the award are to be engraved on the edge, and possibly the length of this inscription and the difficulty of making it in any sense decorative has dictated the attitude of Mr. Flanagan.

The phrase "the reverse of the medal" implies, as you will realize, that the Reverse is usually negligible importance, and this is frequently owing to the fact that the purpose has to be specified either partially or wholly, and that the field of the reverse is not large enough to admit of much else. If the reverse sketch submitted is a good one, I should think that that would be reason enough for bringing about the decision regarding having the edges engraved.

The medals awarded for Bravery by England have the names of the recipients engraved on the edge, and I can see no good reason against the practice provided that the engraving is inconspicuous.

Trusting that this will give you the information you desire,

Very respectfully yours,

SPN/E

Secretary

March 31st, 1923

Thomas E. French, Esq.
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favour of March 26th addressed to Mr. Sydney P. Noe, I beg to state that Mr. Noe is at this time In Europe and is not expected back for two or three months.

As far as I know, Mr. Flanagan has not presented us with a copy of the Sullivant medal so I regret that I am unable to give you our opinion of it, as you suggest; but allow me to express my pleasure in learning that the work is considered successful, and I feel sure that Mr. Noe will also be glad to hear of this.

Very truly yours,

Acting Secretary & Curator

HW/E